

PRESS RELEASE

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Drive Alert. Arrive Alive.

Georgia DOT Restricts Construction-Related Lane Closures Statewide During 4th of July Weekend

ATLANTA – To ease 4th of July holiday weekend traffic congestion, the Georgia Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures on interstate and major state system highways beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, and extending until 5 a.m., Monday, July 6.

“We expect heavy holiday traffic across the state as people head to celebratory parades, barbecues and fireworks,” said GDOT Director of Construction Jeff Baker. “By restricting lane closures, we hope this will enable motorists to travel with fewer delays and less stress.”

The Department reminds motorists that work crews may still be working in proximity to highways; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures to remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route. Whenever you approach a work zone: slow down; allow extra distance between vehicles; read signs; obey road crew flaggers; and *expect the unexpected*.

Safety is always a primary concern and this year GDOT is calling special attention to a significant increase in fatalities compared to last year. During the 2014 Fourth of July weekend, 14 people died from crashes on Georgia roadways. GDOT’s **Drive Alert Arrive Alive** campaign implores drivers to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Focus on driving.

In the event of a crash or breakdown, pull off the road if possible and turn on your emergency flashers. Otherwise remain seat belted in the vehicle - never get out of the car on a freeway, unless your life is in imminent danger.

For updated information about travel conditions on Georgia’s interstates and state routes, Georgia DOT advises travelers to call 511 before getting on the road. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, including traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays. Callers can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In Metro Atlanta, you can also request HERO assistance by calling 511. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

For information about the **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** campaign, visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may also follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadeptoftrans>).

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